

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge  
Sunday, December 1st, 2024

**Praise Medley:** Cry of My Heart, Let the Valleys Be Raised

### Greeting and Announcements

**Introit:** A Candle Is Burning **VU 6 vs 1**

#### Call to Worship:

*(loud)* LISTEN!

*(loud)* LISTEN!

*(whisper)* Listen!

*(whisper)* Listen! (Silent pause)

God comes to us in Creation, God speaks to us through a tree.

**A righteous branch is about to sprout.**

Be rooted in Christ. Grow, and bear fruit.

**God, translate the language of Creation, where we can listen and hear your voice.**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**READERS:** (Kevin Martin and family)

What do you do when an angel interrupts your day?

You stop.

What do you do when an angel speaks?

You listen.

An angel interrupted Zechariah's work in the temple.

He stopped. He listened.

The angel had a message for Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth.

"You will have a baby."

But Zechariah said, "We're too old. That's impossible."

The angel said, "With God, all things are possible."

Remembering Zechariah and Elizabeth, we light this candle of Possibility.

**ALL: In the circle of God's light, all things are possible.**

*(Light one blue candle)*

**SUNG RESPONSE:** (unison)

**Angel, from the realms of glory,**

**Zachariah heard your truth.**

**You who sang creation's story,**

**now proclaim the Baptist's birth:**

**come and worship, come and worship,**

**worship in this Advent time.**

#### Prayer of Approach:

In this uncertain season of Advent, we wait.

**Hoping, hoping as God is coming to us once again.**

In the vagueness of these days, we wait, we listen.

**Hoping, hoping as the Word is being whispered to us.**

In the weariness of our times, we wait, we listen, we watch.

**Hoping, hoping as the Spirit is found in our midst.**

In the sacredness of this hour, we wait, we listen, we watch, we receive.

**Hoping, hoping as we are filled with your grace.**

Let us worship in body, mind and spirit, the God of all our days. Amen.

**Hymn:** This Is the Day **VU 412**

#### A Time for All People

#### Prayer of Confession:

God who is drawing near to us: we live in a world of violence, which we do not condemn enough:

**Come to us, with your peace.**

We are filled with the best of intentions, but are unable to follow through with action:

**Come to us, with your will.**

We are sinners, who are afraid to gaze into your mirror of grace:

**Come to us, with your mercy.**

Word of Flesh: **have mercy;**

Friend of the Poor: **have mercy;**

Support of the Faithful: **have mercy.** (Silent reflection)

#### Assurance of Pardon:

In this season of waiting, the Good News is this: mercy, new life, hope and joy are the gifts we receive from our God.

**Thanks be to the God of Advent, who came in the Child, who is with us in the Spirit, who will come again in glory! Amen.**

**Hymn:** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

**Offertory Hymn:** We Praise You, O God **VU 218 vs 1**

**Offertory Prayer:** (unison)

**Gracious God, with our gifts we declare that our hope lies in you. We trust you to provide all that we need, and so we are secure in offering these generous gifts. May our giving be a sign of our faith and hope. Bless these gifts, that they might indeed serve your purposes here and in the world. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings:**

Hebrew Scriptures: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25 on page **752 of VU R 2**

Epistle Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel Lesson: Luke 21:25-36

**Ministry of Music:** Christmas is Coming

**Meditation**

**Hymn:** How Firm a Foundation **VU 660**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion** (see insert)

**Hymn:** Wings of an Eagle

**Commission and Benediction:**

We do not know when Christ will return,

**so we will wait, and in the waiting we will share hope  
with everyone around us.**

We do not know what the coming days will bring,

**but we will be alert, noticing all those who need the  
help we can provide.**

We do not know the opportunities we will be given,

**but we will keep our eyes open, so we can welcome  
each person as if they are the Christ.**